

LII.—Description of a new Genus for the reception of the North-American Moths hitherto referred to *Telesilla* of Herrich-Schäffer. By A. G. BUTLER, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

*PLACODES CINEREOLA* of Guenée, the type of the proposed new genus, was associated by its describer with the European *P. amethystina*; but as the name *Placodes* had been previously used in Coleoptera, Herrich-Schäffer, in the Index to his 'Schmetterlinge von Europa,' proposed to substitute for it the generic name *Telesilla* (subsequently duplicated in the class Aves). The date of the publication of this name was 1856.

In 1857 Lederer, not having noticed Herrich-Schäffer's action, proposed for the same genus the new denomination of *Eucarta*; he, however, incorrectly stated that *Diastema*, Guen., was only distinguishable from it by the want of tufts on the abdomen, which was insufficient for generic separation: had this been the case the name *Diastema* would have necessarily superseded both *Telesilla* and *Eucarta*; but Herrich-Schäffer, who examined two males, states that *D. virgo* differs so much in character from *T. amethystina* that it cannot stand in the same genus. In addition to the absence of the tufted dorsal crest of the abdomen (which was the only difference discovered by Lederer) he says that the margin of the fore wings is strongly sinuous and quite straight-lined, which seems a somewhat contradictory statement, but the hind wings are deeply indented at vein 5. Antennæ extremely shortly ciliated, every joint with two somewhat longer bristles.

From this I should judge that the ciliation of the antennæ was much more marked than in *T. amethystina*, in which, excepting when seen through a lens and in a good light, they appear to be simple. I therefore retain both genera.

As *T. amethystina* does not appear to be found in North America, although common to Europe and Japan, it is not surprising that Mr. Grote and others should have followed M. Guenée in associating the *Placodes cinereola* of that author with *T. amethystina*; but when I had the two insects before me, in the course of my rearrangement of the *Noctuites*, I was so struck by their different appearance and the totally dissimilar character of their markings, that I felt convinced that they could not be congeneric; I therefore asked my colleague Mr. Waterhouse to prepare the wings of duplicates of the two forms for comparison by clearing them of their scales, and the result was that I proved them to belong to entirely distinct though allied genera. The most important differences nevertheless are not in the wings but in the legs.

## OGDOCONTA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Telesilla* in its shorter primaries, with costal margin more decidedly arched towards apex, the subcostal furca, formed by the third and fourth branches, considerably longer; the rudiment of the discocellular veinlet of secondaries almost entirely obliterated; middle tibia decidedly shorter instead of longer than the femur, the interior spur longer, tarsus much more slender and longer; posterior legs longer and with longer tibial spurs; labial palpi with slightly longer terminal joint; abdomen less strongly tufted. Type *P. cinereola*.

The generic name is suggested by the markings on the primaries of *O. cinereola*.

The Japanese "*Miana*" *segregata*, Butler (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 5, vol. i. p. 85, and Ill. Typ. Lep. Het. ii. p. 25, pl. xxix. fig. 5), is a *Telesilla*.

I have been unable to identify Bremer's *Placodes fuscomaculata* from North China; it may be not even allied to *Telesilla*.

LIII.—*Note on Lycodon atropurpureus, Cantor, and Bufo stomaticus, Lütken.* By G. A. BOULENGER.

PROFESSOR LÜTKEN has very kindly sent me for examination examples of a *Lycodon* and of a toad from India preserved in the Zoological Museum of Copenhagen, and which were obtained by the late Mr. G. Westermann, the discoverer of one of the most remarkable of Indian snakes, *Elachistodon Westermanni*, Reinh. The exact locality where these specimens were procured is not known, but they are believed to be from Assam; they are perhaps from Bengal, like the *Elachistodon*. The *Lycodon* had been provisionally named by Prof. Lütken many years ago *L. subfuscus*, Cantor; and it is indeed very probable, from the number of ventral and caudal shields, that this determination is correct. On the other hand, it is equally probable that it represents the *L. atropurpureus* of the same author, and I have described it below under that name. The toads were described by Prof. Lütken himself as *Bufo stomaticus* in 1862; but as the locality whence they were procured was not indicated in the original description, no mention of that species is made in my 'Reptiles of India.' *Bufo stomaticus* is, however, a distinct species, allied to *B. Andersonii*, from which it differs in the absence of a tarsal fold.